

## Catch and Release Fishing

When practicing catch and release, please follow these suggestions to reduce the risk of injury to the fish.

- Land your catch carefully and quickly. If possible avoid handling the fish at all and remove the hook with pliers.
- Use a landing net made of soft or knotless mesh and always try to net your fish head first.
- Try to keep the fish in the water and gently cradle it while carefully removing the hook.
- Leave your fish in the water until you are ready to take a photo.
- Keep your fingers out of the fish's gills since a torn gill could cause the fish to bleed to death.
- Touch your fish as little as possible. Always wet your hands when touching your fish.
- Cut the line near the hook if a fish is deeply hooked. A steel hook will rust away leaving the fish unharmed.
- Release your fish, pointing it into a slow current or gently moving it back and forth until its gills are working properly and the fish regains its balance. Once fully recovered, allow the fish to swim from your hands (big fish may take longer to recover).

## Michigan - Wisconsin Boundary Waters

Please see the *2005 Michigan Fishing Guide* for fishing regulations on inland waters that form a common boundary between the states of Michigan and Wisconsin.

## Isle Royale

Contact Isle Royale National Park Visitor Center for fishing regulations on inland waters (906-482-0984).

## Sylvania Wilderness Area (Gogebic County)

Any angler fishing the waters contained in the Sylvania Wilderness Area, Gogebic County, should refer to the regulations listed in the *2005 Michigan Fishing Guide*.

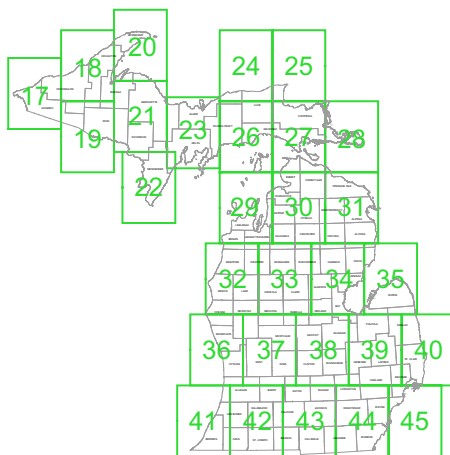
## Fishing and Harvest Closures (Spawning Closures)

Michigan, like many states, prohibits fishing for various species at certain times of the year. These seasonal closures generally coincide with spawning periods and are often referred to as spawning closures. Many anglers and managers tend to think of these regulations as providing specific protection to spawning fish, and the timing and length of closed seasons are generally related to the timing and duration of spawning seasons. These closures are indicated by lake or stream in the county listings. Lakes and streams are closed to all fishing during the period listed. Outside of the closure period, the respective Type regulations apply.

## Maps

Included in this guide is a section containing color-coded maps (pages 17-45). The maps were developed to assist anglers in locating waters that contain trout/salmon and the regulations that pertain to those lakes/streams.

**The maps are to be used as a general reference only.** For exact boundaries of regulations on stream types 2-7, please refer to the text portion of this guide.



The numbers on the map  
refer to the page numbers  
in this guide.

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